CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	My Forbidden Face
Other known title(s):	Growing Up Under The Taliban: A Young Woman's Story
OFLC ref:	1001836.000
Medium:	Book
Author:	Latifa
Country of origin:	United Kingdom
Language:	English
Applicant:	Alice Jane Greer
Classification:	Unrestricted.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	13 January 2011
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued

Summary of reasons for decision:

The book's unrestricted availability is unlikely to injure the public good. While it is intended for a teenage and older audience, the content and ideas within the narrative are not of the graphic extent and degree that would harm younger readers.

The book was submitted for classification by a member of the public under s13(1)(c) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act).

The book is an autobiographical historical narrative written through the eyes of a teenage girl, telling of five years of systematic subjugation and invisibility imposed on women by the Taliban theocratic extremist movement in Afghanistan.

The Classification Office concurs with the submission from the publisher that "the accounts are factual and stated in a bare manner; that they are not written to be prurient or salacious; and that there is no offensive language or any descriptions that would be injurious to the public good." It further states that the book deals with matters of public interest and which the public ought to know about. The Classification Office adds that the history is recent and still applicable as two decades of relentless war continues, and that the oppression of women has meaning for all societies and people of all ages. Further, the publication has been in the public domain for almost

a decade and to date, there is no evidence of injury to the public good.

This publication does not raise issues that make it likely to be restricted. As such the rights and freedoms in section 14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 can be read consistently with the FVPC Act, and are not impeded in any way.